

Dave Van Patten's work is iconic. You can see it all across the city of Long Beach, the city of Bellflower, and across the State and beyond. His ability to blend surrealism with comic book designs makes him a unique artist with a distinctive style across southern California. I am honored to know Dave. He is a constituent. He is a friend, and amazing artist transforming people's lives.

Dave, congratulations.

□ 1215

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was National Agriculture Day, a day to celebrate the contributions of America's farmers, growers, and ranchers.

These hardworking men and women provide our families with the food, fuel, and fiber we need each and every day. According to the USDA, the agriculture sector contributed nearly \$1.3 trillion to our GDP in 2021 and accounted for a tenth of all U.S. employment.

My district in southern Illinois is home to more than 10,000 producers, and one of the most diverse agricultural districts in the region.

In addition to corn and soybean, southern Illinois produces rice, specialty crops, livestock, dairy, wine, and more than one-half of the horseradish in the United States.

But these aren't easy jobs. Farmers are often at the mercy of the weather and other factors well beyond their control.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I believe that the new farm bill provides us a critical opportunity to put farmers first and support programs like crop insurance to strengthen our food security.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 235 designating March 21, 2023, as National Agriculture Day, and I will continue to fight for our southern Illinois farming families every day that I serve in Congress.

WORLD WATER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, on World Water Day, I rise on behalf of every American who lacks access to the most basic necessity of human survival.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, 15,000 households in Newark, New Jersey, were forced to rely on bottled water due to the lead in the city's supply. As lead contamination levels approached record highs, residents of my State's largest city were forced to reckon with the reality that access to safe drinking water would not be and could not be taken for granted.

I am grateful that Newark has since replaced nearly all of its lead pipes, and their residents can once again trust that their tap water is safe to drink.

In fact, had this emergency been unique to one city at one time, I probably wouldn't have been compelled to speak here today.

However, the year after Newark put an end to its emergency, infrastructure failures in Jackson, Mississippi, cut off residents' access to safe water. Mississippi's capital city still lacks the resources to support residents in need.

Let me be clear. This is not a Newark crisis or a Jackson crisis, or for that matter, even a Flint, Michigan, crisis. It is an American crisis.

Due to climate change, outdated infrastructure, and systemic disinvestment in our most vulnerable communities, millions of Americans risk losing access to water.

As the wealthiest Nation on Earth, we have the resources—not to mention the moral imperative—to change that situation. Safe, clean water is a human right. If we continue to ignore the water crisis, communities across the country will face dire consequences for their health, safety, and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the WATER Act because the time to act is now. In addressing water scarcity, we must revitalize our failing infrastructure, remove dangerous contaminants from our water supplies, and reinvest in the communities that have been hit hardest by decades of privatization and austerity. The WATER Act tackles the crisis on all three fronts.

My legislation would provide \$35 billion annually to modernize our Nation's water and sewer infrastructure. Cities like Newark are not outliers. Lead pipes are used in every single State. By overhauling our infrastructure, we can remove these dangerous components and eliminate the threat of lead contamination.

My legislation would also clean up other contaminants, as well, including PFAS, "forever chemicals." New Jersey has some of the highest PFAS levels in the country and Black, Brown, and low-income communities suffer disproportionately from this contamination.

Everyone, regardless of their race, their income, or their ZIP Code deserves reliable water access. That is why, in addition to cleaning up contamination, my legislation will provide grants to low-income communities to stop water shutoffs due to unaffordable bills.

With these long-overdue investments, we can prevent further water shortages, protect our current supply, and make emergencies like those in Flint, Jackson, and Newark a thing of the past.

Water is the essence of human life, and as public servants, we must ensure that every family in every community has reliable access to it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Chamber to take up the WATER Act and pass it without delay.

PUBLIC SCHOOL RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about an extremely important topic that is very current and very disturbing in our Nation, in our Nation's schools, and the relationship of parents and their kids.

Mr. Speaker, during the COVID lockdowns, schools were closed, and much of the learning was conducted online, except for those courageous schools that did manage to stay open and teach their kids the normal way.

During this time, parents gained a valuable opportunity to see firsthand what their children were being taught in public schools, and in some cases, what is in their libraries.

What they found was very shocking to them. We heard a conversation a bit earlier about, Oh, this is banning books.

If you see the content that is in some of the books, some of the so-called educational materials, it is really nothing short of pornography that is being allowed to be in there.

Mr. Speaker, when did it become okay for kids to be subject to that kind of material or the performances that are being brought to their libraries under the guise of openness where it wouldn't be really any different than what is going on in a strip club?

You would get in big trouble should you take your kid to one of those. How is that allowed to be normalized these days?

Rather than teaching children the skills that they need and the knowledge to become successful adults, these activists, whether it is teachers, counselors, superintendents, they are filling their heads with this woke far-left propaganda and pushing radical gender ideology on children as young as elementary age.

In response to the backlash, teachers and public school administrators have attempted to keep this indoctrination and these agendas secret from their parents. Unbelievable.

This included helping encourage students to keep secrets from their parents, hiding their lesson plans and curriculums, trying to ban recording in the classroom, obfuscating what materials are being shown to students, and shutting down parents who spoke out at public school meetings when they heard about this, even so far as having the U.S. Department of Justice refer to them as terrorists.

They asserted time and again that parents did not have the right to be involved in their children's education. They claimed that once children walked through the schoolhouse door, those children belonged to the State.

What is that? Where are the echoes of that coming from?

In 2021, parents across the country revolted at school board meetings and